

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections and objections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Claims 1-20 remain.

2-3. Claims 1-7 and 15-20 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,929,728 to Frerichs (hereinafter “Frerichs”) in view of U.S. Patent 6,525,390 to Tada et al. (hereinafter “Tada”).

Frerichs is commonly assigned, has common subject matter, common inventorship and was co-pending when the present application was filed. Accordingly, enclosed please find a substitute declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.63 such that the present application now claims priority to German Patent Application No. 102 54 523.5 filed November 22, 2002 under 35 U.S.C. §119 **AND** priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to Serial No. 10/719,748 (i.e., the application that matured into U.S. Patent 6,929,728). Accordingly, Frerichs is no longer available as prior art.

5. Claims 8-14 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Frerichs and Tada as applied to claims 1-7 above, and further in view of a technical document to Paris, R. (hereinafter “Paris”).

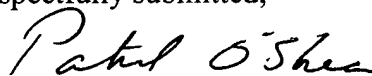
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For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. O'Shea
Registration No. 35,305
O'Shea, Getz & Kosakowski, P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 912
Springfield, Massachusetts 01115
Telephone: (413) 731-3100, Ext. 102